

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Springdale

other names/site number Half Moon; The Dixon House/Farm; 081-0180

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication n/a
city or town Lexington vicinity n/a
state Virginia code VA county Rockbridge code 163 Zip 24450

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

[illegible]

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)Federal Style

_____**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)foundation brickroof metalwalls brick

_____other wood
_____**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)Architecture**Period of Significance** ca. 1815-1955**Significant Dates****Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)Jordan, John**Cultural Affiliation** n/a**Architect/Builder** Jordan, John**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.☐ previously listed in the National Register☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register☐ designated a National Historic Landmark☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____**Primary Location of Additional Data**☒ State Historic Preservation Office☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data**Acres of Property** approximately one acre**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 639234 4178141 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

____ See continuation sheet.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian

Organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

date May 2005

street & number: 1030 Penmar Ave SE

telephone 540-857-7586

city or town Roanoke

state VA

zip code 24013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name James C. & Mary Kidd

street & number 70 Gilmore Lane

telephone 540-463-7537

city or town Lexington

state VA

zip code 24450

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

Springdale is located in the heart of the Great Valley of Virginia, about four miles southeast of Lexington, just off of Wesley Chapel Road and just east of Interstate 81. The sole historic building remaining on the property is a two-story, brick, seven-bay, single-pile, central passage house with a rear ell, projecting central bay on the front elevation, and a cross-gable roof covered with standing-seam tin. The two-foot-thick foundation walls are constructed of roughly-dressed, uncoursed limestone. The structure began circa 1815-20 as a Palladian three-part form with a two-story, three bay, front gabled central mass and one-and-a-half-story flanking wings, all of Flemish bond brick, with integral end chimneys. The wings were raised to two stories in 1914 using bricks from an old law office on the premises. The full-length, front porch with a pediment above the front entrance replaced the original, smaller porch in 1914. Among the notable exterior features of the house are its large, distinctive, stuccoed half-moon, or *lunette* motif in the front gable, and stuccoed jack arches over the windows. The interior of the house features elegant, Federal style carved mantels, paneled wainscoting, wooden cornices and random-width pine flooring.

Narrative Description:

The outline of the original, smaller versions of the flanking wings can be clearly seen in the brickwork at each end of the house. The tops of the original rear walls of the wings are also clearly delineated where the Flemish bond terminates at the one-and-a-half-story level, continuing to the two-story level with common bond. The 1914 front porch is supported by attractive, slender Doric columns, but the porch roof obscures the window arches across all seven original bays at the first floor level. The two-over-two windows are modern replacements of the 1914 windows. Early, louvered, wood shutters, painted black, and original iron shutter hardware remain intact. Over the front entrance is a decorative transom light with tracery muntins.

The bricks are well made and uniform, average sized (approximately 8"x 2.5"x 4"), with smooth faces and dark red color. A small percentage are glazed or fire-darkened. They are said to have been made "just south of the old vegetable garden." Remains of the old kiln where bricks were made for the house were uncovered on the north side of the yard when a new septic system was installed. The overhand-struck brick joints are fine, with vertical joints measuring about 3/8" on average, and bed joints measuring 1/4" on average.

Originally the house consisted of a large hall and one large room in the center section downstairs,

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with one-room single story wings on either side. The second floor of the center section contained
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one large room, a small room and a hall. Massive, hewn floor joists can be seen in the basement. In one of two basement rooms is a large stone fireplace once used for cooking. In the attic are Roman-numeraled, hand-hewn rafters, mortised and pegged together. Stone pillars beneath the present large porch indicate the size of the original much smaller porch. Also original to Springdale is the small, thirteen-pane window above the front door, said to represent the first thirteen states.

Early dependencies, no longer extant, included log barns and stables, a stone springhouse situated beside a “never failing” spring at the foot of the hill, slave quarters, Joseph Steele’s law office, and a detached brick kitchen with brick floor on the south side of the house.

Early 20th-century alterations, made circa 1908-1914, included construction of the two-story back porches, enlargement of the front porch, addition of two second-floor bedrooms over the original first floor wings and addition of a frame kitchen. The old brick kitchen and law office were torn down and the brick used for raising the wings one-half story, and construction of the springhouse.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary

Springfield, a fine brick manor house near Lexington, appears to have been built circa 1815 by John Jordan, for Joseph Steele, a prominent lawyer and trustee of Washington College, now Washington & Lee University. Jordan was a well-known entrepreneur and builder during the period in the Lexington area, responsible for the construction of other notable domiciles, including his own mansion called “Stono” in 1818, and also “Little Stono,” both of which still stand as major landmarks on the Virginia Military Institute campus in Lexington.¹ Like Stono, Springfield is noteworthy for its three-part Palladian massing and three-bay, front gabled central section with lunette. Jordan’s work was heavily influenced by the designs of Thomas Jefferson, for whom he manufactured bricks to be used at Monticello in 1805. Jordan and business partner Samuel Darst designed and built the Roman Revival-styled, temple-form, Washington Hall at Washington and Lee University (also in Lexington) in 1824, and a number of other buildings in and around Lexington. Washington Hall is the oldest and most prominent building on the campus.² Springfield stands as a very significant example of Jordan’s work and the domestic architecture of the period in western Virginia.

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Justification of Criteria

Springfield is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the regional level, under Criteria B and C in the area of Architecture, because of its association with John Jordan, a very noteworthy builder of the period and region; and because of its architectural form, quality of detail, and high degree of historic integrity. Its period of significance begins with construction, circa 1815, and ends in 1955 with the 50-year mandatory cut-off.

Narrative History

Alexander Trimble (1762-1816), who purchased 600 acres of the Borden grant in 1790, appears to be the first owner of the Springdale property. He and his second wife, Martha Grigsby Trimble (1770-1868) were married December 12, 1793. The Trimble family probably lived in the log cabin known to have been on the land before the brick house was built. Trimble's farm eventually became known as "Trimble Hills." In his last will and testament, dated November 12, 1813, Trimble bequeathed the house and a large part of his estate to his nephew Joseph Steele (1795-1872) and wife Martha Paxton Steele. Joseph Steele was a prominent lawyer in Lexington and a trustee of Washington College, now Washington & Lee University.³

In 1889, most of the property was purchased by John W. Barclay of Lexington. In 1902, Edgar McClung Dixon and wife Mary McCormick Dixon bought part of the farm from Barclay, and the remaining portion in 1904. After Dixon's death in the 1950s, the farm and house passed to daughter Odessa Dixon Holman and husband Samuel R. Holman.⁴

Some window frames and sashes were replaced in 1914 when Edgar Dixon renovated the house. The renovation included construction of the present full-length porch to replace a "much smaller porch." The original stone piers supporting the porch were re-used. There was a brick office building in the yard, on the north side of the main house, and which is said to have been used by a lawyer. Tradition also holds that magistrate court was held there before the Rockbridge Courthouse was built. This building was torn down in 1914 by Dixon, and the brick was used to raise the two original one-story wings of the house to create second story bedrooms. The old office building had become dangerous, and was held together with very long iron rods. The farm received electricity in 1940, and the first bathroom plumbing was installed in the house in 1949. An old detached kitchen on the south side of the house was torn down about 1908 and the brick used for a springhouse, to which the water was piped from the foot of the hill by means of a ram. The kitchen originally had a brick floor, and stood

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just below the springhouse, which is now gone too.⁵

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In the late 1900s the house was used for student housing for a time and later stood empty, or was used for farm storage. When Mr. and Mrs. James C. Kidd bought the property in 1997, the house was in need of rehabilitation, but was still structurally sound.⁶

Notes

1. "Stono" National Register nomination, 1974. Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives, Richmond, Virginia.
2. "Washington and Lee University Historic District" National Register nomination, 1970. Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives, Richmond, Virginia.
3. Odessa Dixon Holman, "A History of Edgar M. and Mary M. Dixon Farms," 1966.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid
6. Mr. and Mrs. James C. Kidd, personal communication, March 2005.

9. Bibliography

Holman, Odessa Dixon. "A History of Edgar M. and Mary M. Dixon Farms." Unpublished document, 1966.

Kidd, Mr. and Mrs. James C., personal communication, March 2005.

"Stono" National Register nomination, 1974. Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives, Richmond, Virginia.

"Washington and Lee University Historic District" National Register nomination, 1970. Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives, Richmond, Virginia.

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel is identified as parcel 98 –A– 2D2 on Rockbridge County tax maps.

Boundary Justification

The property nominated for listing includes the entire parcel 98 –A– 2D2.

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All photographs are of:

Springdale, Rockbridge County, Virginia
Date: March 2005 Photographer: Michael J. Pulice
Location of negatives: VDHR, Richmond, Virginia

1. VIEW OF: South (front) elevation. Neg. No. 22043
2. VIEW OF: South (front) elevation (alternate angle). Neg. No. 22043
3. VIEW OF: South (front) elevation (alternate angle). Neg. No. 22043
4. VIEW OF: West elevation. Neg. No. 22043
5. VIEW OF: East elevation. Neg. No. 22043
6. VIEW OF: North(rear) elevation. Neg. No. 22043
7. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, parlor mantel. Neg. No. 22043
8. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, dining room mantel. Neg. No. 22043
9. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, library mantel. Neg. No. 22043
10. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, bedroom mantel. Neg. No. 22043
11. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, front door. Neg. No. 22043
12. VIEW OF: First floor, interior door. Neg. No. 22043
13. VIEW OF: First floor, interior, stairway landing. Neg. No. 22043
14. VIEW OF: Attic, interior, rafter pair. Neg. No. 22043
15. VIEW OF: Attic, interior, rafter w/ Roman numeral. Neg. No. 22043
16. VIEW OF: Exterior, west elevation (alternate view). Neg. No. 22105
17. VIEW OF: View from front yard facing west (neighboring property). Neg. No. 22105